OPINION

Pioneer Spirit Can it last?

Pioneer Spirit. It made the Pioneer Days festival a huge success. The people who planned the week-long celebration and put so many hours of hard work into making it the success it was, were full of Pioneer Spirit. And it required many people with Pioneer Spirit to make the week-long celebration a success.

It's too bad that Pioneer Spirit doesn't fill the hearts and minds of all the residents of Carbondale 365 days a year. If it did, the Pioneer City would be a much nicer place to live and work.

If old political tensions and battle lines were forgotten and everybody worked together to accomplish some positive goals, the whole city would benefit. Other cities have done it. Forest City and Scranton seem to be catching the spirit of bettering their city for the benefit of all. If people set their minds to it, it could also happen in Carbondale.

There are many goals which could be reached if city residents wanted to. To take an example, City Hall on the outside is in bad shape and something will have to be done soon. Many of the inside rooms have been renovated beautifully--City Council Chambers, the Mayor's office, the Police offices -- but many more need to still be improved.

But that leaves the outside of the building. Wouldn't it be nice if a "Restore City Hall" drive would be started to obtain funds to redo the outside? It has been done in other cities -- older, beautiful structures that have been restored from worn down, falling apart conditions back to sound, beautiful structures that add grace and elegance to the area.

City Hall certainly is worth renovating. The clock, which use to work, can be seen for miles around. And any visitor who goes through Carbondale can't miss going by it. Wouldn't it be nice if it was restored to it's former beauty and was a credit to the city, instead of an eyesore?

A project to restore City Hall could bring back that Pioneer Spirit that for one glorious week had many people working together for one common goal.

Wouldn't it be nice if Carbondale shook off their small city grudges, hatred and gossiping and turned that energy into Pioneer Spirit to better the city.

The only thing the Pioneer City would lose would be her backward slide image of being an old dying coal town destined to go nowhere.